THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : Details of export and imports for major commodities|groups for the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and April-September '93 during 1993-94 are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLXIX, Annexure No. 54] Export target for the current year has been fixed at US $ 22132 million (Rs. 70842 crores). The Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) envisages export growth of 13.6 percent per annum in volume terms. No targets are set for imports.

CANCELLATION OF EXPORT LICENCES BY TEA BOARD

2365. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the Financial Express, dated 2-12-93 captioned "Tea Board cancel export-licence of three farms" and suspended licence of three others engaged in the sale of tea to Russia;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and reasons advanced by the Tea Board therefor;

(c) what was the total number of tea shipment licence issued during the current year ending November, as compared to the corresponding period last year indicating overseas|internal demand for Indian tea as compared to demand of tea to other countries :

(d) whether it is a fact that in terms of exports, even Sri Lanka had overtaken India; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps Government have taken to shift from greater volumes of tea exports to higher value-added export of tea in order to compete with other countries, and the steps taken so far to increase the standards of packaging industry in respect of tea in India ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Complaints have been received by the Tea Board against a few Indian exporters for exports of substandard and inferior quality teas. These complaints have been looked into by the Tea Board and action has been taken under the provisions of the Tea (Distribution & Export) Control Order, 1957 against such exporters. Accordingly, Tea Board have cancelled the tea exporters licence of M|s. Amusar Impex Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta and M/s. Dolphin International Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi. Exporters licence of M|s. India Tea Produce Co. Ltd., Calcutta and M|s. Jainsons Export Corporation, New Delhi have been suspended by the Tea Board. Tea Board has also initiated proceedings against another firm, which field a writ petition before Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta and the matter is subjudice.

(c) Shipment licences issued for exports of tea during April-November 1993 were of the order of 139.81 million kgs. as against 133.62 million kgs. during the corresponding period of previous year. Increase in the shipment licences during the current year indicates higher demand of Indian teas in the importing countries, Domestic consumption of tea during the current year is estimated at 560 million kgs as compared to 540 millon kg during 1992.

(d) While in quantitative terms exports of tea from Sri Lanka are higher than exports of Indian tea, in terms of value, Indian exports have been higher than that of Sri Lanka. Main reason for higher quantum of exports of tea by Sri Lanka in quantitative terms is the negligible domestic demand for the tea in Sri Lanka.

(e) Steps taken to boost exports of value added teas include uninational promotional campaigns through Tea Board's offices aborad. (i) It consists of : participation in trade fairs|exhibitions, (ii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness towards various unique characteristics of Indian tea, (iii) media campaign to popularise Indian tea through Tea Board marketing symbol and (iv) support to various foreign brands containing Indian tea. A part of the expenditure incurred by importers for promotional compaigns are met from Tea Board budget. Tea

Board have also undertaken Darjeeling and Assam Logo Campaign in U.K.

In order to improve standards of packaging in respect of tea produced in India, exporters have been advised time and again to improve the packaging standards so as to match the international requirements. A scheme sponsored by Tea Board for improvement of packaging of tea specially for the purpose of export has been launched recently by the Indian Institute of Packaging.

TEA PRODUCTION

2366. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India's tea production is not likely to touch the target fixed during 1993;

(b) if so what is the target and the likely production; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Targets for production of tea is fixed on the basis of financial year i.e. April to March. For 1993-94, it is fixed at 730 million kgs. subject to favourable weather conditions. Given the present trend, this target is likely to be achieved with a production slightly over 730 million kgs.

(c) Does not arise.

LOANS FOR PRAWN FARMING

2367. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government are granting loans for prawn farming which is a foreign exchange earning trade; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to investigate areas where this industry may be started with Central Aid ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No Sir, Government does not provide any loan. However many commercial and scheduled banks and other financial institutions like IFCI, IRBI, ICICI are providing loans to support techno economically viable aquaculture projects.

(b) Besides credit facilities as above MPEDA provide subsidy assistance as well as equity participation.

COMPLAINTS REGARDING DUMPING

2368. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been complaints of dumping Industries; if so, the names of the Industries effected because of the dumping;

(b) what measures Government propose to take to arrest the dumping; and

(c) whether Government would consider short listing the items being dumped thereby affected the Indian Industries ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) The Designated Authority, under the Indian Customs Tariff Act 1975 as Amended in 1982 and the Customs Tariff Rules there under, has received complaints from the domestic industry alleging dumping of certain Chemicals, petrochemicals, drugs and intermediates etc.

The Designated Authority initiated antidumping investigations concerning import of PVC Resin, Styrene Butadiene Rubber and Bisphenol-A. The authority has recommended imposition of anti dumping duty on import of PVC Resin. In its preliminary findings concerning import of Bisphenol-A the authority found a dumping